

*Statewide
Interoperability
Executive
Committee*

*Jonathon E. Monken
Acting Director, Illinois State Police
Chair, State Interoperable Executive Committee*

April, 2010

To: Chief Elected/Appointed Officials in Illinois
Special Attention: Users of VHF/UHF Radio Spectrum (150 to 512 MHz)
From: Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
Subject: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Mandated Narrowband Deadline for Radio Equipment

All public safety and governmental users that operate radios in the 150 to 512 MHz range must take several urgent actions:

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that radio users in the 150 – 512 MHz radio bands must modify their radio systems on or before **December 31, 2012**.
- Some or all of your radios may not be legally operated after the deadline unless they have been reprogrammed for narrowband operation.
- The FCC can levy fines of up to \$10,000 per day for illegal operation after the deadline.
- Meet with your administrators, chiefs and department heads to make sure that they are aware of the pending migration to narrowband and ask what preparations they have done to become compliant.
- Check your entity's FCC radio licenses to insure that they are current and contain the narrowband emission designator(s) of 11K0F3E, 11K2F3E, 11K3F3E or other appropriate 11K narrowband emission. If the license is lacking a narrowband emission, the FCC may cancel your license after December 31, 2012. Resource information to assist with filing license modifications is attached.
- Inventory your radio assets, including base stations, mobile radios, handheld radios and emergency response pagers to insure they are narrowband compliant. A listing by manufacturer of many known compliant radios is attached for your reference.
- Go to www.ILEAS.org and complete the on-line narrow-banding survey. This information will be used to support and potentially obtain grant funds to offset some costs associated with replacing non-compliant equipment.
- There are no known FCC approved modifications for non-compliant radios. Non-compliant radios must be replaced or face possible FCC enforcement of rules violations.
- **Budget for and replace non-compliant radios before the March 31, 2012 Phase 1 (described on page 2) deadline and before essential statewide, mutual aid, and medical frequencies convert to narrowband, early in 2012.**
- **Budget for programming related costs to reprogram all radios, at least twice, to facilitate the transition to narrow-band operation, and then to remove all wide-band frequencies from your radios. (An FCC requirement.)**

Since 1992, the FCC has been working to satisfy the demand for additional radio frequencies in the 150 Megahertz (MHz) to 512 MHz frequency range. Local and county governments, police, fire, public works, parks and schools are in need of additional radio frequencies to coordinate daily governmental and public safety activities. To meet this need for radio spectrum, the FCC initiated several activities to create additional usable radio channels.

To create the additional radio channels, the FCC modified its rules to shrink the footprint, or bandwidth, of a radio transmission. To use a layman's analogy, currently most public safety radio transmissions flow through a 25" diameter pipe. On or before December 31, 2012, those same transmissions must fit through a 12.5" pipe. Most radios purchased after 2000 are equipped to transmit into the 12.5" pipe.

*Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
801 South Seventh Street, One Main, P.O. Box 19461
Springfield, Illinois 62794
Attn: Leslie Ivers, Secretary*

Unfortunately, thousands of radios in daily use throughout Illinois lack narrowband capability.

By now you are probably asking what all of this really means to your governmental entity. Essentially, it means that entities with radio equipment that is wideband only capable, and that is not programmable for narrowband channels, are faced with the expense of replacing some or all of their existing equipment. It would be prudent for you to inventory all of your radio equipment and check with your radio vendor, or the radio manufacturer, to see if your radio equipment is programmable for narrowband usage.

During the next 2½ years, Illinois entities using radio equipment in this affected frequency range must make a coordinated effort to migrate from the current wideband to the new narrow-band channels. Migration to narrowband operations for interoperable radio channels that are used between agencies, and across disciplines, in the public safety environment including IREACH, ISPERN, POINT-to-POINT, IFERN, FIREGROUND and MERCI and MED CHANNELS will be coordinated through the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee. Local and regional radio systems will also require coordination, at the regional or local level. Without a coordinated effort, entities responding to an emergency could find they are unable to communicate with each other due to the disparity in emission bandwidth, even though they may share common channels.

The SIEC has developed a four (4) phase plan to accomplish narrowbanding of the statewide frequencies:

- Phase 1: Planning for narrowbanding, procurement of required base stations and mobile/portable radios and pagers, modifying FCC authorizations for narrowband operations. TODAY through March 31, 2012.
- Phase 2: Programming all appropriate mobile and portable radios for both wide and narrowband channels. TODAY through March 31, 2012.
- Phase 3: Convert statewide interoperable and mutual aid frequencies to narrowband operation in a COORDINATED manner. April 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012.
- Phase 4: Remove all wideband transmit channels from base radios, mobile and portable radios. November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

Illinois' Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee strongly urges all state, county and local governmental entities to contact your radio service provider, or your in-house radio professionals, to get this process started. **Waiting until 2012 to address narrowbanding will be too late.** Be proactive – to prevent being caught at the last moment without critical radio communications. The FCC can levy fines of up to \$10,000 per day for radio operations that violate their rules.

The following web-links are available to provide additional information pertaining to the FCC's narrowbanding initiative:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/technology/communication/fcc-narrowbanding.htm>
<http://www.apcointl.com/services/bulletin/documents/Narrowbanding.pdf>
<http://www.ilapco.org/narrowband.htm>
http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/articlefiles/Executive_Summary%20_111608.pdf

Sincerely,



Gary Cochran, Chairman Delegate
Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

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ILLINOIS STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

Phases for Successful Narrowband Transition:

The SIEC has developed a four (4) phase plan to accomplish narrowbanding of the statewide frequencies:

- Phase 1: Planning for narrowbanding, procurement of required base stations and mobile/portable radios and pagers, modifying FCC authorizations for narrowband operations. **TODAY through March 31, 2012.**
- Phase 2: Programming all appropriate mobile and portable radios for both wide and narrowband channels. **TODAY through March 31, 2012.**
- Phase 3: Convert statewide interoperable and mutual aid frequencies to narrowband operation in a COORDINATED manner. **April 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012.**
- Phase 4: Remove all wideband transmit channels from base radios, mobile and portable radios. **November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.**

Frequencies Affected:

ISPERN (155.475 MHz); **HF4** (155.460 MHz); **Point-to-Point** (155.370 MHz); **IREACH** (155.055 MHz); **ESMARN** (155.025 MHz)
IFERN (154.265 MHz); **Firegrounds: RED** (153.830 MHz); **WHITE** (154.280 MHz); **BLUE** (154.295 MHz)
MERCI (155.160 MHz; 155.220 MHz; 155.280 MHz; 155.340 MHz; 155.400 MHz)
MED 1-10 (463.000/468.000 MHz; 463.025/468.025 MHz; 463.050/468.050 MHz; 463.075/468.075 MHz; 463.100/468.100 MHz;
463.125/468.100 MHz; 463.150/468.150 MHz; 463.175/468.175 MHz; 462.950/467.950 MHz; 462.975/467.975 MHz)

Calendar Methodology:

ISPERN, HF4, & Point-to-Point to migrate based on Illinois State Police Districts on date listed.

IREACH & ESMARN to migrate based on Counties on date listed.

IFERN and Fireground to migrate based on MABAS Divisions on date listed.

MERCI and MED Channels to migrate based on EMS Systems on date listed. Please note that only EMS System Resource Hospitals may be listed on the attached plan. All EMS Associate Hospitals should migrate on the same date as their primary EMS System Resource Hospital.

All state and local users must plan to migrate their mobile and portable radios to narrowband operation for the frequencies specified above on the same date as their appropriate ISP District, County, MABAS DIVISION AND EMS System.

ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

ISP DISTRICTS: ISPERN, HF4 & POINT-to-POINT

COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN

~ April 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 ISP DISTRICTS 13, 19, 22 JODAVIESS PIKE ALEXANDER	3 STEPHENSON ADAMS PULASKI	4 WINNEBAGO BOONE BROWN MASSAC	5	6	7
8	9 ISP DISTRICTS 11, 12, 18 CARROLL HENDERSON CALHOUN	10 OGLE WARREN GREENE	11 WHITESIDE HANCOCK JERSEY	12	13	14
15	16 ISP DISTRICTS 9, 14, 20 LEE MCDONOUGH MACOUPIN	17 DEKALB SCHUYLER MONTGOMERY	18 KANE FULTON BOND	19	20	21
22	23 ISP DISTRICTS 6, 10, 21 MCHENRY STARK MARSHALL FAYETTE	24 LAKE PEORIA SHELBY	25 DUPAGE WOODFORD MOULTRIE	26	27	28
29	30 ISP DISTRICTS 7, 8, 17 COOK	Notes:				

ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

ISP DISTRICTS: ISPERN, HF4 & POINT-to-POINT

COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN

~ May 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 ISP DISTRICTS 1, 16 WILL TAZWELL DOUGLAS	8 KENDALL MASON COLES	9 GRUNDY LOGAN EDGAR CALHOUN	10	11	12
13	14 ISP DISTRICTS 2, 5 LASALLE DEWITT CUMBERLAND CLARK	15 BUREAU PUTNUM MCLEAN JASPER	16 HENRY LIVINGSTON EFFINGHAM	17	18	19
20	21 ISP DISTRICTS 15, CHICAGO ROCK ISLAND FORD LAWRENCE RICHLAND	22 MERCER KANKAKEE EDWARDS WABASH	23 KNOX CLAY	24	25	26
27	28	29 VERMILLION WAYNE	30 CHAMPAIGN MARION	31 PIATT JEFFERSON	Notes:	

ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

ISP DISTRICTS: ISPERN, HF4 & POINT-to-POINT

COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN

~ June 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 MACON CLINTON	5 CHRISTIAN MADISON	6 MENARD WASHINGTON	7	8	9
10	11 SANGAMON ST. CLAIR	12 CASS MONROE	13 MORGAN SCOTT RANDOLPH	14	15	16
17	18 PERRY	19 FRANKLIN	20 HAMILTON	21	22	23
24	25 GALLATIN WHITE SALINE	26 WILLIAMSON	27 JACKSON	28	29	30

ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS

**COUNTIES: IREACH & ESMARN
EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED**

~ July 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 MABAS DIVS 8, 49 UNION CONDELL LAKE FOREST	10 MABAS DIVS 16, 17, 29 JOHNSON VISTA EAST & WEST MIDWEST REGIONAL	11 MABAS DIVS 18, 30, 38 POPE HARDIN HIGHLAND PARK	12 ST. FRANCIS EVANSTON GLENBROOK RUSH NORTH SHORE	13	14
15	16 MABAS DIVS 43, 57 CENTEGRA - NIMC CENTEGRA - WOODSTCK	17 MABAS DIVS 25, 39 NW COMMUNITY GOOD SHEPARD	18 MABAS DIVS 31, 60 SHERMAN	19 ST. JOSEPHS (ELGIN)	20 DELNOR	21
22	23 MABAS DIVS 23, 42 CENTRAL DUPAGE	24 MABAS DIVS 33, 36 EDWARD	25 MABAS DIVS 41, 53, 62 GOOD SAMARITAN	26 LOYOLA	27	28
29	30 MABAS DIVS 48, 61, 67 CHRIST	31 MABAS DIVS 44, 51, 56 SILVER CROSS	Notes:			

ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS

EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED

~ August 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 MABAS DIVS 50, 66 INGALLS	2 ST MARYS (KANKAKEE)	3 RIVERSIDE	4
5	6 MABAS DIVS 34, 35 CARLE	7 MABAS DIVS 58	8 MABAS DIVS 32 COVENANT (URBANA)	9	10	11
12	13 MABAS DIVS 47 ST MARYS (DECATUR)	14 MABAS DIVS 52 SARA BUSH LINCOLN	15 MABAS DIVS 45 CRAWFORD	16	17	18
19	20 MABAS DIVS 28, 54 GOOD SAM (MT VERNON)	21 MABAS DIVS 26, 63 FAIRFIELD MEMORIAL	22 MABAS DIVS 46, 59 HEARTLAND HOSPITAL	23 MEMORIAL (CARBNDL)	24 MASSAC MEMORIAL	25
26	27 MABAS DIVS 37 GREENVILLE REGIONAL	28 MABAS DIVS 40 MEMORIAL (BELLEVILLE)	29 MABAS DIVS 7, 15 ANDERSON HOSPITAL	30 ALTON MEMORIAL	31 ST ANTHONYS (ALTON)	Notes:

ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS

EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED

~ September 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 MABAS DIVS 14, 19 JERSEY COMMUNITY	5 MABAS DIVS 27 BLESSING HOSPITAL	6 PASSAVANT HOSPITAL	7	8
9	10 MABAS DIVS 10, 12 ST JOHNS (SPRINGFIELD)	11 MABAS DIVS 13, 16	12 MABAS DIVS 2 MEMORIAL (SPRINGFLD)	13	14	15
16	17 MABAS DIVS 4, 5 ST JOES (BLOOMINGTN)	18 MABAS DIVS 1, 3, 9 BROMENN REGIONAL	19 MABAS DIVS 11, 20 ST JAMES (PONTIAC)	20 ST FRANCIS (PEORIA)	21	22
23	24 MABAS DIVS 21 ST MARYS (GALESBURG)	25 MABAS DIVS 22 GALESBURG COTTAGE	26 MABAS DIVS 24 KEWANEE HOSPITAL	27 GENESIS HOSPITAL	28 TRINITY (ROCK ISLAND)	29
30	Notes:					

ILLINOIS SIEC NARROWBAND PLAN

APPROVED MAY 20, 2010

MABAS DIVISIONS: IFERN, RED, WHITE & BLUE FIREGROUNDS

EMS SYSTEMS: MERCI & MED

~ October 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ILLINOIS VALLEY	2 OTTAWA REGIONAL	3 ST MARYS (STREATOR)	4	5	6
7	8 ST ANTHONY (ROCKFD)	9 ROCKFORD MEMORIAL	10 SWEDISH AMERICAN	11	12	13
14	15 KATHERINE SHAW	16 KISHWAUKEE COMM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes:		